

## Women Corset Workers Strike

Bridgeport, Conn.—Between 1,500 and 1,900 employees of the Warner Bros. Company, makers of corsets, struck to enforce a demand for an eight-hour day with pay for ten hours.

The plant employs about 2,200, and the strikers expect that the others will join them. The company offered its employees a working schedule of fifty hours a week.

The strikers are virtually all women and girls. The trouble started, it was said, when a number of piece workers, who should have reported at 7:30, failed

to appear until 8 o'clock. Some of the others taking exception to this left the shop, but the majority did not go out until in the afternoon.

After they had left the factory the women and girls gathered in groups near the place, and in a number of instances were addressed by their fellow workers.

The only change in strike conditions at the Farrell Foundry and Machine Company, in Ansonia, was the addition of about a dozen apprentices to the ranks of the 120 striking machinists. All other employees, it was said, reported for work.

## BIDS FOR MACHINISTS TO WORK IN ENGLAND

British Agent Wants War Workers Who Are Threatening to Strike Here.

FEDERAL PLANTS MENACED.

Metal Trades Unions to Demand An Increase at the Navy Yards and Arsenals.

New York.—For the third time within a week a representative of the British Government went recently to the headquarters of the International Association of Machinists, 116 Nassau street, and asked for American mechanics to do war work in England. The British agents are especially busy at this time in view of the possibility that strikes in the eight-hour campaign of the metal workers may make more mechanics available for work across the seas.

W. H. Johnston, President of the International Association of Machinists, said later that in the last ten weeks 10,000 American machinists had gone to England, most of them on a six-month contract at \$5.50 a day with bonuses. He said there was a standing order for as many more, but they could not be obtained because of the manufacture of war munitions in the United States.

While most of the American mechanics were at work in English munitions shops and navy yards, hundreds had been put to work on English ships, some of them in the Dardanelles, Mr. Johnston said. He asserted that not a few of the American mechanics had been slain by the Germans, and that the question of pensions for their families was to be taken up with the British Government.

Labor officials announced that within a few weeks the metal trades workers in all of the United States navy yards and arsenals would demand an increase in pay varying from 15 to 25 per cent. The men in the Washington Navy Yard have asked for a 25 per cent increase. The men in the Government shops now have the eight-hour day.

### See Time for Action.

This move by the machinists is taken at a time when they believe the Government regards its military equipment as so important that it will take no chance of industrial trouble.

"I believe there will be no strike in the navy yards," said J. J. Keppler, Vice-President of the machinists. "I believe our demands will be granted by the Government. That is all taken up with the Federal officials direct in Washington, and I expect quick results."

Only the heads of the Navy and Army Departments know just how seriously the country would be affected by a strike in the navy yards and arsenals. At fewest, two dreadnaughts would be delayed in completion and two others in outfitting, and there would be a tie-up of repair and maintenance work, all of which could not be shifted to private shops without peremptory action by the Government.

There will be a meeting here soon of representatives of the eighteen machinists' locals in the New York district to plan a campaign against the New York shops which have resisted the eight-hour demand. At the same time the Executive Board will meet in Washington to decide on what cities the campaign shall be carried to next.

The fight in New York really means a fight against the National Metal Trades Association, with the Garvin Machine Company's plant as the point of conflict. The Garvin plant has been idle two weeks because of a strike of the two hundred machinists whose action forced out of work five hundred other employees. An effort of the Garvin firm to get the men back failed. The Metal Trades Association is backing the Garvin Company in its fight to beat the strike. Although Henry C. Hunter, counsel for the association, says some of the strikers have returned, this is denied by the labor leaders.

### Mediators' Efforts Futile.

Colonel Michael I. Reagan, mediator of the State Labor Department, who has been trying to effect a settlement, said that he was able to report no results.

The machinists' officials said they had information that the Garvin Company would try to start up with strikebreakers. Keppler was asked what he would do in such an event.

"We will try to prevent them from going to work," he said. "However, they may get a few hooligans and waiters, but they can't get machinists. It is fool-

ish for the Garvin people to say they can get seven hundred metal workers to work eight hours under the old scale of wages, when we can't fill the demand for men to work eight hours at higher wages. Mr. Garvin is beaten. That's all there is to it."

Keppler called a meeting of the strikers at strike headquarters, 181 Varick street, and urged the strikers to stand firm and assured them of victory. The strikers will get benefits.

The machinists' officials said they would extend the fight against the Metal Trades Association by calling a strike at the plant of the Standard Motor Company in Jersey City, the owners of which have refused to grant the eight-hour day. There are about five hundred machinists in the plant.

Word reached union headquarters that the Dobler Die Casting Company, Smith and Ninth street, Brooklyn, had granted the eight-hour day.

### COWS EAT DYNAMITE.

No Explosion, But the Meal Proves Fatal.

Columbus, Ind.—Three cows, owned by Ben L. Perry, a farmer living three miles north of this city, either committed suicide or else met accidental deaths as the result of eating dynamite.

The dynamite did not explode when they ate it, but it is in their stomachs, and the bodies are being handled carefully for fear of an explosion. Mr. Perry had been blowing up stumps on his farm, and left the dynamite in a box. One of his cows arrived home sick and died in a short time. He called a veterinarian to see two other cows that were very sick, and the investigation showed they had eaten ten sticks of the explosive. This was five pounds of 40 per cent dynamite, and it proved too much for the cows, as the other two died also.

### WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING.

One of the conspicuous figures met on the Joy Zone at the Exposition in San Francisco is Miss Blanche Payson, special policewoman. Miss Payson is 6 feet 4 inches in height and weighs more than 200 pounds. Her costume is a long frock coat of dark blue serge, blue knickerbockers, very much like woman's riding breeches, neatly fitting boots and a policeman's cap. She has been "pounding" the beat in the Joy Zone, where the fun concessions are, since the exposition opened and is said to have done better work than could have been done by a man. The rowdies who infest every place where people gather for fun get no quarter from the policewoman. She is there to see that girls are not annoyed, and they are not. She has a woman's point of view of a masher. He behaves or is thrown out. Handling such individuals is the unpleasant part of Miss Payson's work. The other side is caring for lost children and advising timid or puzzled women. Besides she is a traffic cop. She must see that the electric chairs do not go faster than a walk. If they do she halts them and warns against going fast and bumping into pedestrians. When Miss Payson heard that a policewoman was wanted for the exposition grounds she was selling hats in a prominent millinery shop. She went at once to see the chief of police. He looked her over and said, "You'll do—you were made for the job." Because she agrees with him she has determined to become a regular policewoman when the exposition closes.

Arizona can now boast of having the first and so far the only official woman live stock inspector in the world. Last week Mrs. Okla Noonan was appointed live stock inspector for Gila Bend by Secretary Samuel B. Brodner of the live stock sanitary board.

Mrs. Noonan is a native of Arizona and is thoroughly familiar with the cattle business. Secretary Brodner says if the experiment proves a success, it is probable that the board may in the future appoint only women to such positions.

Dr. Elizabeth W. Allison, medical director of the State Normal School at Superior, Wis., is thought to be the only woman in the world holding such a position.

It is Dr. Allison's duty to investigate all candidates for normal school teaching, and according to her speech made before the American School Hygiene Association at its recent convention in San Francisco, she has found every imaginable disease among the young people applying for entrance to the Wisconsin State Normal School.

## 450,000 IRON CROSSES AWARDED BY GERMANY

BERLIN.—The number of iron crosses thus far granted to German soldiers is near the half-million mark. Statistics up to March 31, according to the Cologne Gazette, showed a total of 338,261 crosses of the second class. Even if this rate has only been maintained since—and undoubtedly it has been exceeded, considering the increased number of men under arms—it would give a total exceeding 450,000.

In the period mentioned, 6,488 iron crosses of the first class had also been granted. The holders of these must previously have won the second-class decoration. The crosses issued up to March 31 had cost about 2,800,000 marks.

In the campaign of 1870-71, 45,791 iron crosses of the second class were granted, and 1,304 of the first class.

## 300,000 FORD USERS GET \$50.

Profit-Sharing Checks Mailed To Purchasers of 1915 Cars.

Detroit.—Profit-sharing checks for \$50 each are now being prepared and mailed by the Ford Motor Company to more than 300,000 purchasers of Ford cars in 1915. Miss Genevieve Morrison, 914 North Florence street, El Paso, Tex., will receive check No. 1, the company's records showing that she was the first to make a purchase on August 1, 1914.

Each check carries the signatures of three assistant cashiers, and the most inveterate scribbler might develop writer's cramp if some device were not used to assist him. In this case a method by which all five checks on a single sheet can be signed by a single operation is being used.

## SHOE SHINE COST \$3,600.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Gus Brown, of Duquesne, Pa., displayed a shoe shine the other day that cost him \$3,600, and it was not so spectacular as one might imagine. Brown gave the porter in a hotel the shoes to be sent to the bootblack, and when they came back Mrs. Brown told her husband that she had tucked \$3,600 worth of jewelry in one shoe for safekeeping.

The bootblack denied seeing the valuables and the porter pleaded ignorance. The police have been unable to recover the property. Meanwhile the shine has worn off.

## WHERE PIGS CLIMB TREES.

Presumably, the walrus and the carpenter never did settle the discussion as to whether pigs had wings, and there are persons who seriously think it was a foolish theme for an argument.

And yet it is any stranger than the undisputed fact that in Morocco pigs climb trees in search of nuts? Not only pigs, but goats, too. The puzzle is not in the pigs and the goats, however; they are of the common variety that we see in the back lots in our own communities. It is the tree that is strange. It is called the argan nut tree, and it grows near Agadir. Usually it shoots out from a steep hillside. The trunk is broad and flat and almost horizontal, and so are the main branches, forming ample and solid foothold for any animal which may be tempted by the olive-shaped nuts growing within easy reach of the main branches.

## STREET CAR MEN ORGANIZING.

Ft. Wayne, Ind.—Street car men in this city have reached a point in their organizing campaign where the Ft. Wayne & Northern Indiana Traction Company has notified its employees it will arbitrate any difference that may arise. The company warns its employees against "agitators," and assures them that all differences can be settled by conference. A. F. of L. Organizer Flynn, in an open letter to the car men, answers the company as follows:

"The Ft. Wayne & Northern Indiana Traction Company tried to force its armature winders to work overtime on single time pay, at 18 cents less than the average rate of wages paid to armature winders. When the armature winders asked for a conference they were given their pay envelopes. This shows how fair the traction company is to its employees."

### Not Guilty.

"Hey, you big busher!" yelled an excited fan as the pitcher of the home team issued his fourth successive base on balls, forcing a runner across the plate. "Where did you learn to pitch? In a correspondence school?"

If the pitcher heard, he made no sign, but another spectator sitting near the excited one administered a stinging rebuke.

"You talk like a fish," he said scornfully. "What makes you think that dub ever learned to pitch anywhere?"



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## RENEW AGREEMENT.

Albany, N. Y.—The International Brotherhood of Paper Makers has renewed an agreement with the International Paper Company that has been in force since April, 1915. The renewal extends until May 1, 1916. One section of the contract provides:

"It is mutually agreed and understood that the policy and practice of trade union employment will be carried out, which means that employees who enter or remain in the service and fail or neglect to affiliate themselves with the trade unions, will be considered as unsatisfactory to the parties to this agreement."

It is said that the other international unions interested in the contract will consider renewals. These international unions include: Pulp, sulphite and paper mill workers, stationary firemen, electrical workers, steam engineers, plumbers and gas fitters, carpenters, machinists and the American Federation of Labor, representing all unions not represented through affiliation with an international union.

## WORKING HOURS FOR WOMEN.

Pittsburgh.—Representatives of the State Commission on labor and industry were in this city last week and heard testimony on the proposition to give women employees of hotels, restaurants and hospitals two half days of each week off duty rather than one whole day each week.

Proprietors of the smaller hotels argued in behalf of two half days a week, while the managers of the larger hotels wanted the law fixed so that each woman employee might have 24 hours continuously away from duty. This latter contention was supported by James H. Maurer, president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor.

Representatives of hospitals spoke for the two half days while one entire day was desired by those representing children's homes and similar institutions.

## ROOSTER ENDS LIFE AFTER COFFEE DIET.

Ten of Tonio's Hens Were Drowned in Rain, So Postscript States.

Harwich, Mass.—Gangway! Here comes a wonderful story about some hens that can't sleep nights. Manuel Tonio is the owner. They are brown Leghorns. It seems that Tonio has been feeding scraps from his table to his flock for some time. Lately he has noticed that the flock have been suffering from insomnia and have been crowing at all times of night.

It appears that Tonio has been feeding them, among other things, on coffee grains. Does that not account for it?

The Winsted (Conn.) correspondent please take a back seat, as the worst is yet to come. One of the roosters of his flock, suffering to such an extent from loss of sleep, ended it all yesterday. He had been acting queerly for several days. After running wild for some time, he dashed his head against a rock—committing suicide right before his mates! It is not known what result this will have on the rest of the flock. If anything develops later we will let you know.

P. S.—Ten of Tonio's hens were drowned in the rain.

### Remarkable.

"A Mohammedan is permitted by law to marry four wives."  
"Yes, and the funny part of it is, some of 'em haven't got any more sense than to do it!"

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